



## Bellwether Magazine

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# Veterinary Medical Scientist Training Program

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# EVENTS

## Veterinary Medical Scientist Training Program

For many years the School of Veterinary Medicine has been a major supplier of academic scientists and faculty for other veterinary schools as well as for medical schools and universities. In 1969 the training of one group of these scientists, those studying for both a V.M.D. and a Ph.D., received national recognition by the award of a training grant from the National Institutes of Health. The program was at that time, and still is, the only V.M.D./Ph.D. training program at a School of Veterinary Medicine to compete successfully for such support. About twenty medical schools, including Penn, have such training grants but many other medical schools have not been successful in obtaining this type of training grant support. Thus, our program continues to be highly competitive with those at the best research-intensive medical schools. Five years ago the veterinary program and medical programs were merged into one administrative unit since training was quite similar in many parts of both.

The plan for the coming five years will not see major shifts in direction in this program since it has been very effective during the past thirteen years. However, gradual modifications will be instituted to take advantage of our growing experience with training opportunities and feedback from graduates. Basically our plan is to appoint two or three trainees each year from entering students or the first-year class. The competition is intense with about forty superlative applicants competing for the positions. The successful applicants will then follow a combined V.M.D./Ph.D. program full time for six to seven years. Each trainee has an individually tailored course of study based on providing the best foundation for the student's chosen career goal. It is anticipated that the graduates of this program will enter academic medicine and staff the faculties of schools of veterinary medicine and science departments in medical schools. They will be superbly qualified to bridge the gap between basic science and clinical departments, bringing knowledge of health problems into basic science laboratories and knowledge of basic science investigative power into clinical medicine. Already the graduates of this program have been enormously successful and are highly sought after upon graduation. We regard this as one of our elite programs that greatly enriches the School and contributes some of our most gifted and highly trained graduates to the profession and to academic life. During the coming five years we expect to graduate two to three individuals per year from this program.

## Developments

At the end of the first seven months of the fiscal year, 390 donors had contributed \$69,952 to Annual Giving. The Friends of Small Animal Hospital had 742 members contributing \$41,970 and 99 Friends of New Bolton Center contributed \$32,450.

The American Kennel Club has awarded us a grant of \$20,000 for our work in canine on-

May

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Helminthological Society of Washington Meeting  
New Bolton Center

18

\*Health and Economic Programs for the Large Dairy Herd  
Baltimore Hilton Inn  
Baltimore, Maryland  
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

19

Board of Overseers Meeting  
New Bolton Center

21

Alumni Day  
New Bolton Center

23

Commencement



June

2

New Bolton Center  
Retirement Dinner

26

Reunion, Class of 1963  
New Bolton Center

July

19

AVMA National Meeting  
Alumni Reception  
New York, NY

\*Continuing Education  
Credit



cology and \$17,200 for our research in canine epilepsy (see Bellwether 4).

The American Livestock Insurance Company and Harding and Harding, Inc., of Geneva, Illinois, granted \$7,500 to support Dr. Loren Evans' work in laminitis, and the Basset Hound Club of America granted \$1,000 to Dr. Vicki Meyers to continue her work in canine pyometra.

The Delaware County Kennel Club (PA) gave the Veterinary Hospital \$3,000 toward the purchase of equipment to computerize the medical records system in the Small Animal Hospital, and the Montgomery County Kennel Club (PA) gave us another \$1,750 toward this project.

The Devon Dog Show Association (PA) contributed \$3,500 to the Friends of the Small Animal Hospital, and the Empire Cat Club (NY) joined the Friends of the Small Animal Hospital with a gift of \$1,500.

The Firestone Foundation granted \$20,000 to Dr. Loren Evans for his work on an improved table for large animal surgery, and the foundation granted an additional \$100,000 to New Bolton Center as part of its recent decision to liquidate its assets.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip B. Hofmann gave the

Thoroughbred stallion REAL SUPREME to New Bolton Center, and Lauxmont Farms donated the Standardbred stallion WESTWARD to the Hofmann Research Center for Animal Reproduction.

The oil painting, *Endangered Species*, by Tucker Bobst was given to the Veterinary Hospital by Richard Maloy and now hangs in the hospital's Clark Pavilion.

The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals contributed \$10,000 for student loans, and the Ware Foundation granted \$8,000 toward our program in ovine medicine at New Bolton Center.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation awarded the School a major grant of \$250,000 to provide operational endowment for the Laboratory of Reproductive Physiology and Genetic Engineering under the direction of Dr. Ralph Brinster, the Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology.

Two anonymous gifts totalling approximately \$20,000 were given for the renovation project now under way in the Old Small Animal Hospital, and another anonymous gift of just under \$10,000 was given to the Friends of the Small Animal Hospital.